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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

4 The disclosed apparatus and method for facilitating surface treatment of
articles of manufacture of the type having a given handling surface, such
6 as, for example, blank forms for optical lenses, includes a support for
holding the article in a stable position, a source for sequentially aligning
8 elongate stem elements in a desired orientation relative to the article, a
mechanism for advancing a free end of the stem into contact with the
10 article, and a securing mechanism [26] for attaching the free end of the
stem element to the article so that the stem extends from the article to
12 serve as a handle for manipulation and support during processing. The
handle is removed by cutting or breaking away.

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